

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M. D., DIRECTOR

Weekly



Bulletin

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

**Tularemia Case
Is Reported Here.**

A case of tularemia has been reported from Sacramento, one of the few cases of the disease in man ever reported within the state. The *Bacillus tularensis*, first discovered in California in 1911, is the causative organism producing symptoms in the human being which may resemble those of typhoid fever or which may be like a glandular infection. The organism is found in several rodents, chiefly wild rabbits and ground squirrels. The disease may be spread from animal to animal by the deer fly, rabbit louse, bed bug, mouse louse, squirrel flea, stable fly, or wood tick. It may be possible for human beings to contract the disease through the bite of such infected insects. Most cases in man, however, are contracted by handling infected wild rabbits. The disease is seldom, if ever, fatal, but it may cause an extreme disability for a period of many weeks. Tularemia is known to exist in all but twelve of the states, most of which are located in the northeastern part of the United States and along the Atlantic seaboard.

The *Bacillus tularensis* was first demonstrated, in the ground squirrel, by McCoy and Chapin in 1911. Francis, in 1919, demonstrated the organism in cases of "deer fly fever" in Utah, proving that the deer fly transmits the disease. Many laboratory workers have contracted

tularemia while engaged in research work. The disease is not easily spread from person to person, however, and there is no danger that it may ever become epidemic. There is a danger to the individual who may handle infected animals, but the mortality rate is very low. The relative importance of tularemia to man is, therefore, negligible.

**Many Children
Receive Examinations.**

Dr. Lela J. Beebe, physician in the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the State Department of Health, has, during November, conducted a series of infant welfare conferences in five counties of the Sacramento Valley—Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba. During the month 182 children were given intensive physical examinations, with full instructions relative to the correction of physical defects and hygienic program to be followed. These examinations were made for demonstration purposes in communities where local residents desire to establish health centers for children.

**Montague Has
New Health Officer.**

Mr. Frank French, on December 1st, succeeded Mr. G. W. Meyer as City Health Officer of Montague in Siskiyou County.

California Cities Wage War on Rats.

Great Britain has an annual "rat week," but in most California cities every week is "rat week," for at least fifty California municipalities, under the supervision of the State Department of Public Health, are, at the present time, carrying on active warfare against these dangerous rodents or are preparing for the wholesale destruction of the pests.

Rats cost Californians at least \$8,000,000 every year in damage to food-stuffs and other property. It is estimated, conservatively, that every rat costs at least one-half cent per day for support and sustenance and there is at least one rat for every human being in the population. The estimated population of California is 4,500,000 and since it costs \$1.82 annually to support a single rat it costs \$8,000,000 a year to support all of the rats in California. It costs the United States at least \$200,000,000 a year to support its rat population. Rats are also a distinct menace to health for they are responsible for the transmission of many serious diseases. Their destruction is important for the protection of both life and property.

San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles employ workers who are devoting full time to rat killing operations. Intensive work in the extermination of these rodents is now in progress or has been carried on recently in Berkeley, Riverside, Salinas, Richmond, Alameda, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Martinez, Port Costa, San Rafael, Santa Rosa, Ukiah, San Jose, Petaluma, Alhambra, Monrovia, Pasadena, Redondo Beach, Vernon, Whittier, Huntington Park, El Monte, Arcadia and many other cities of the state.

Poisoning and trapping operations are most commonly used. The best permanent method to control rats, however, is to cut off their food supplies by building them out—making all buildings rat proof. This can not always be done to advantage and more direct killing methods must be used. It is for the purpose of starving rats that health officers insist that garbage be kept in covered metal cans.

While rats are very destructive in the cities, they also do great damage in the agricultural districts where they destroy grain, potatoes, chickens, nuts, fruits and growing crops. They are, probably, the most clever of all four-footed animals, and are able to adapt themselves to any conditions. They are

frequently found living in the same burrows with ground squirrels and weasels and in some districts, where food is plenty, they dig their own burrows out in the open. They fight hard for their lives when attacked, they can swim, and some kinds are able to climb up the walls of buildings.

The warfare against rats carried on by the State Department of Public Health in cooperation with many cities and counties of California is productive of results, as the growing scarcity of rats in many places is conspicuous. The department is ready to provide assistance and advice to any community of California that desires to rid itself of these damaging and dangerous pests.



County Acts to Keep Streams Clean

Many subdividers of real estate in remote sections of our cities and in unincorporated districts are sometimes permitted to open large tracts of land without making provision for the proper disposal of sewage. This is most flagrant where streams or other water supplies are located within such tracts of land or are contiguous to them. Furthermore, there is a growing tendency upon the part of residents of the larger cities to purchase cheap land for summer homes or for weekend journeys. When large numbers of people are sojourning upon these lands the menace to the purity of streams and water supplies is very great. Many counties in close proximity to the large cities are threatened with problems of stream pollution as a result of this seasonal migration to the rural districts.

It has remained for Los Angeles County, at the request of the county health officer, Dr. John L. Pomeroy, to enact legislation designed to eliminate this menace. Under the provisions of the new ordinance, passed recently by the Los Angeles County board of supervisors, the control of sewage disposal in these subdivisions is placed under the control of the county health officer. Inspection of premises, application for permits for the construction of septic tanks, cesspools and privies and issuance of same are required. Certain distances from reservoirs, streams and springs are specified in locating sewage disposal works. This ordinance, properly enforced, will go far in keeping water supplies uncontaminated and many other California counties would do well to follow the lead in this matter taken by Los Angeles County.

State Grants Licenses To Maternity Hospitals.

Three hundred fifty-two maternity homes and hospitals, having a total of 2391 beds, have been inspected and licensed by the California Department of Public Health under the provisions of the law which authorizes the department to issue licenses to such institutions as comply with the regulations. Of the 352 licenses granted, 213 have been issued to hospitals which maintain 2035 beds for the care of mothers during childbirth, and 139 licenses have been granted to homes which maintain a total of 356 such beds.

These institutions provide a definite service for that portion of the public which is not provided with permanent homes. The increasing number of dwellers in apartment houses in the larger centers of population makes the provision of maternity hospitals an absolute necessity. In the smaller towns and in the rural districts the maternity homes provide similar service to many transients as well as to the residents of the communities in which such homes are located. Most of the maternity hospitals are connected with general hospitals, but a great many are devoted exclusively to the care of maternity cases. Most of the maternity homes are small, very few having more than three beds.

The regulations of the State Department of Public Health governing maternity homes and hospitals are designed to insure adequate equipment and adequate standards of care for women who may enter these institutions. These regulations require the elimination of fire hazards, the provision of adequate lighting and ventilation, sufficient floor space, sanitary equipment, and provision for the sterilization of materials used. These are the essential features of the regulations, but there are also detailed requirements concerning the keeping of records, care of mothers, care of babies, nurseries, special equipment and so forth.

Some of the maternity homes are conducted by foreign-born residents, especially for members of their own races. The Japanese maintain about 15 maternity homes in California which are conducted by midwives, exclusively for the use of the Japanese. In some of the hospitals and homes important instruction is given to mothers relative to their own care and the care of their babies after they leave the institution. Maternity homes and hospitals are well

scattered throughout the state, but maternity hospitals are found generally in the centers of population and the maternity homes are for the most part located in the small towns and in the rural districts.



County Undertakes Tustin's Health Work.

Tustin, a community near Santa Ana in Orange County, has been incorporated recently and the administration of its public health work has been delegated to the Orange County Health Department, of which Dr. V. G. Presson is county health officer.



Nursing Educators To Hold Institute.

The California League of Nursing Education and the Bureau of Registration of Nurses of the California Department of Public Health will hold an institute in San Francisco, January 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1928. Sessions will be held in the various schools of nursing in San Francisco and vicinity. The institute will give directors, instructors and department heads of schools of nursing an opportunity to hold necessary conferences on problems in nursing education. Mornings will be open for visits to hospitals or schools. The program is now in course of preparation.



MORBIDITY.*

Diphtheria.

137 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 3, Oakland 15, Piedmont 1, El Centro 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 3, Brawley 1, El Centro 2, Los Angeles County 4, Alhambra 1, Burbank 2, Compton 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 33, Pasadena 2, San Fernando 8, Whittier 1, South Gate 1, Mill Valley 1, Napa 3, Merced 1, Orange County 2, Huntington Beach 3, Santa Ana 5, Roseville 1, Riverside County 4, Elsinore 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 3, Redlands 1, Chula Vista 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Clara County 2, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 2, Benicia 1, Tehama County 1, Exeter 1.

Scarlet Fever.

162 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 2, Berkeley 3, Oakland 34, Richmond 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 4, Bakersfield 3, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 8, Alhambra 1, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 1, Compton 4, El Segundo 1, Huntington Park 4, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 17, Lynwood 1, South Gate 2, Sausalito 5, Alturas 1, Orange County 2, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 2, Sacramento 2, Rialto 2, San Diego County 3,

* From reports received on December 5th and 6th for week ending December 3d.

Coronado 6, San Diego 8, San Francisco 15, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 3, San Luis Obispo County 1, Paso Robles 1, Redwood City 1, Santa Clara County 2, Mountain View 1, San Jose 4, Solano County 1, Vacaville 1, Tulare County 1, Santa Paula 1.

Measles.

36 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 2, Berkeley 1, Oakland 2, Los Angeles County 2, Brea 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento 2, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 5, San Luis Obispo County 6, San Luis Obispo 8, Dinuba 1, Tuolumne County 3.

Smallpox.

10 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Hayward 1, Oakland 3, Sacramento 5.

Typhoid Fever.

Two cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Riverside County 1, Vallejo 1.

Whooping Cough.

119 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 2, Livermore 2, Oakland 1, Fresno 4, Los Angeles County 9, Compton 5, Hermosa Beach 3, Long Beach 8, Los Angeles 11, Pasadena 5, Lynwood 1, Monterey County 2, Monterey 4, Salinas 2,

Orange County 4, Santa Ana 1, Seal Beach 6, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 1, Chula Vista 1, Oceanside 2, San Diego 27, San Francisco 7, San Joaquin County 2, San Luis Obispo County 3, San Luis Obispo 1, Palo Alto 1.

Poliomyelitis.

10 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Eureka 1, Bakersfield 2, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, Madera 1, San Francisco 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

Two cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Compton 1, Los Angeles 1.

Anthrax.

Los Angeles reported one case of anthrax.

Leprosy.

San Francisco reported one case of leprosy.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

Two cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Azusa 1, Watsonville 1.

Trichinosis.

San Jose reported one case of trichinosis.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1927				1926			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Dec. 3 received by Dec. 6	Week ending			Reports for week ending Dec. 4 received by Dec. 7
	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26		Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27	
Anthrax.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Botulism.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox.....	250	321	292	270	256	318	302	381
Diphtheria.....	138	187	139	137	164	197	206	187
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	0	5	1	1	0	0	6	2
Encephalitis (Epidemic).....	1	2	3	2	1	0	2	3
Gonococcus Infection.....	139	106	73	118	85	115	69	96
Influenza.....	15	11	22	32	21	17	18	22
Jaundice (Epidemic).....	0	0	0	0	2	0	214	0
Leprosy.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Malaria.....	4	3	1	1	3	2	2	1
Measles.....	66	66	38	36	655	849	666	809
Meningitis (Epidemic).....	5	8	0	2	1	0	3	2
Mumps.....	56	72	68	78	139	210	189	181
Paratyphoid Fever.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Pneumonia (Lobar).....	27	37	33	37	36	58	80	80
Poliomyelitis.....	32	29	23	10	2	5	5	2
Rabies (Animal).....	8	11	10	14	13	10	7	4
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	121	182	171	162	291	304	262	217
Smallpox.....	7	9	18	10	46	14	10	21
Syphilis.....	197	103	75	117	84	120	87	152
Tetanus.....	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	0
Trachoma.....	3	1	1	3	4	15	4	191
Trichinosis.....	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis.....	192	195	148	187	165	174	196	197
Typhoid Fever.....	9	17	8	2	19	13	14	10
Typhus Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	114	76	109	119	79	103	59	70
Totals.....	1386	1441	1236	1342	2068	2525	2404	2628

CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE